

FOWLER of RatcUffe^ in
the kingdom of England^ mer
chant ^ of
about 3 8 years of age;
witnesseth ^*



HE knoweth shipping to be very dear both at Seville in Andalusia, in Spain; and at the harbour of la Vera Cruz [*the true Cross*] in the West Indias. For the ton freight is 30 Ducats [=£8 5s,=;£66 *now*] from Seville to la Vera Cruz; and so much money more, from la Vera Cruz to Seville : which, in the whole, is 60 Ducats [=£16 ios,=£132 *now*] the ton freight.

For he hath traded from Seville, to the said port of la Vera Cruz, [the city of] Mexico, and other places in the West Indias; hath been there six several times; hath carried wares to and fro, from the same places; and hath paid for freight, after the like rate.

That by the experience of the trade which he hath had to and at the said place, called la Vera Cruz, and other the chief places of the West Indias; this Deponent knoweth that a Negro of a good stature and young of years is worth, and is commonly bought and sold there at Mexico, and the Mainland of the West Indias, for 400, 500, and 600 *pesos* [= £100,, £125, or £150=or about £800, £1,000, or £1,200 *now*].

For if a Negro be a *Bossale*, that is to say, " ignorant of the Spanish or Portuguese tongue/" then he or she is commonly sold for 400 and 450 *pesos* [=£100 or £112 ios.].

But if the Negro can speak any of the foresaid languages anything indifferently, who is called *Ladinos*, then the same Negro is commonly sold for 500 and 600 *pesos* [=£125, or £150]; as the Negro is of choice, and young of years.